



Postage Stamps & Freemasonry

Class 2 Postage Stamps of the World

Introductory Remarks

This is a massive project. It has been undertaken to establish a “one-stop” electronic file showing Freemasons depicted on stamps world-wide for posterity. It will stand as a testimony to the integrity of the Masonic Order, regardless of the status of the Order in the future.

Although the process of identifying applicable stamps has been exemplary by Masonic Stamp Club members over the last 80 years, the process of collecting, assembling and formatting that material and other reference material, requires certain computer/software know-how and considerable time.

I don't think I will be able to complete the project, due to my age. All I can do is take it as far as I can and hopefully it will get picked-up by another Brother who has the required skills to do so. In that connection, I wish to outline here what is required.

1. General computer skills and the ability to access images and text from the Internet, copy such, and put it into a publishing program.

2. Ability to use a publishing program such as QUARK or INDESIGN. Most people have MICROSOFT WORD, and it would work, however it has restrictions because it is not a professional publishing program.

3. Ability to use photograph processing software. The best program here is Adobe PhotoShop.

4. Ability to use a scanner and specify image size requirements, including image resolution.

5. Ability to make pdf documents and transmit them.

Of course, the ability to write is paramount, but it is not beyond the high school level, and with practice is easily acquired.

The dilemma at this time is that young people who have the necessary skills do not have the time, and seniors who have the time don't have the skills. This will definitely change as the next generation (under 50) moves into the seniors' category. This type of “work,” as it were, is perfect for a senior's life-style.

Having said all of that, I would like to hear from any Club member who might have the necessary requirements and would be willing to start working with me. Failing that, please just keep an open mind in your travels. There are seniors (such as myself) who got acquainted with computer technology in the 1960s and carried on to make computer skills a part of their life.

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

